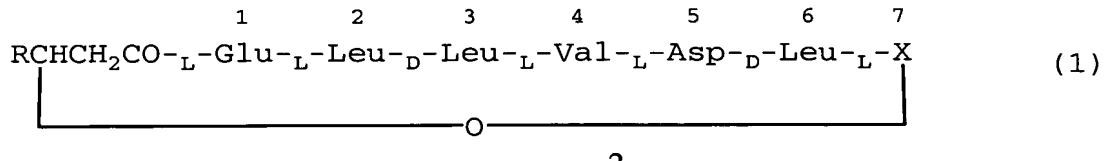


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An oil-in-water emulsified composition, which comprises 0.1 to 5 % by mass of (A) lipopeptide compound derived from a microorganism, 0.05 to 1.5 % by mass of (B) xanthan gum, (C) oil component and (D) water.
2. (original): The oil-in-water emulsified composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of the oil component is from 25 to 70 % by mass.
3. (original): The oil-in-water emulsified composition according to claim 1, wherein the water content is from 15 to 55 % by mass.
4. (original): The oil-in-water emulsified composition according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism-derived lipopeptide compound (A) is at least one species selected from surfactins, its analogous compounds and salts thereof.
5. (original): The oil-in-water emulsified composition according to claim 4, wherein the surfactin or its analogous compound comprises at least one or more compounds as represented by the formula (1) below:



wherein X represents an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, glycine, serine, alanine, threonine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, lysine, arginine, cysteine, methionine, phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan, histidine, proline, 4-hydroxyproline and homoserine, and R represents a normal alkyl group having from 8 to 14 carbon atoms, an isoalkyl group having from 8 to 14 carbon atoms or an anteisoalkyl group having from 8 to 14 carbon atoms.

6. (original): The oil-in-water emulsified composition according to claim 5, wherein X is residue of leucine, isoleucine or valine.

7. (original): The oil-in-water emulsified composition according to claim 4, wherein the salt is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of sodium salt, potassium salt, monoethanolamine salt, diethanolamine salt, triethanolamine salt, arginine salt and lysine salt.

8. (original): The oil-in-water emulsified composition according to claim 4, wherein the microorganism-derived lipopeptide compound (A) is sodium surfactin.

9. (currently amended): The oil-in-water emulsified composition according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~, comprising no nonionic surfactant.

10. (currently amended): The oil-in-water emulsified composition according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~, comprising no acrylic acid-based water-soluble polymer.

11. (currently amended): An external preparation for skin comprising the oil-in-water emulsified composition according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~.

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12. (currently amended): A cosmetic comprising the oil-in-water emulsified composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~.